State of bridges constructed at Tanakpur- Tawaghat Road

†8. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) when the improvement and broadening work at the Tanakpur-Tawaghat motorable road was undertaken and by when the same is likely to be completed;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the bridges constucted thereon have turned unusable and some of them have been closed down for trafffic; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action being taken against the persons responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Improvement and broadening at Tanakpur-Tawaghat road was started in November, 2001 and probable date of completion is 2012.

(b) No, Sir. Out of 13 bridges only two bridges namely Tulkhola and Sarju bridge on Tanakpur-Tawaghat road have been closed down for traffic as these bridges have suffered damages.

(c) The damage to Tulkhola Bridge occurred due to flash floods on 23.6.2003. As this damage is due to .natural causes no responsibility is required to be fixed. The reasons for cracks in wearing coat in Sarju Bridge are under investigations.

Shifting effect of Idgah Abattoir on IAF

9. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force is against the shifting of Idgah slaughter house to Ghazipur near the Hindon Air Base in Ghaziabad.

(b) if so, the action taken to ensure that accidents involving bird hits posing great risk for the fighters are avoided by shifting the abattoir?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) IAF has approached the Hon'ble Supreme Court on this isssue and the matter is sub-judice.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.